

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1048

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 50th Season of the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, this legislative body is proud to specially recognize those service and community-minded organizations that reach out to the upcoming generation by supporting their character development and athletic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon is one such noteworthy organization whose members have dedicated their time and talents to the Little League teams of Lebanon for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, beginning as a group of young boys playing baseball behind McClain School in 1954, President-Elect George Dixon and Hanely Hall of the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon cultivated the idea of sponsoring a Little League in Lebanon and plans for development of a recreation park soon ensued; and

WHEREAS, quite the sand-lot shortstop in his younger days, Mayor Bill Baird agreed to petition the City to purchase and develop land for a recreational park, and in May 1955 the ball field was ready for play; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon wanted the Kiwanis Club to sponsor the first Little League Baseball in Lebanon and his efforts were essential in obtaining a Little League Charter; he served as the first President of the Little League and Leonard Ballard succeeded him as the League's second President; and

WHEREAS, beginning its legacy with four teams sponsored by the Lebanon Bank, Nokes Sports, Lebanon Woolen Mill, and D & D Stores, the Little League soon grew and in 1957 two teams sponsored by Dicks Food Mart and the Optimist Club joined the League; and

WHEREAS, in 1962 the continued growth of the League resulted in a split into two leagues, the Kiwanis Little League and the Optimist Little League; George Harding devised a plan for distributing the players based on the month of their birthdays with one League taking the players whose birthdays were in odd months and the other taking the players whose birthdays were in even months; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harding's ingenious idea was only the beginning of his participation in Little League decisions; he has since served in all local Little League positions, held District and Region offices, and served as a State Representative for Little League on the National Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, one of the original coaches in the League, Dr. T.J. Gallaher, has preserved the history of the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon League and continues to be an active member of both the League and the Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, not only providing quality recreation throughout its 50-year history, the Kiwanis Little League has promoted the advancement of the Lebanon community and has encouraged the youth of today to become the leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, steadfastly devoted to Kiwanis International's commitment "to serving the children of the world," the 51 members of today's Kiwanis Club of Lebanon, under the able leadership of President Faye Dedman, strive to better their community through public service, with children as their first priority; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that we recognize the dedication and commitment of this exemplary organization and its members' wonderful community activism and outreach to Tennessee's next generation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon Little League upon its 50th Season, salute the members of the Kiwanis Club of Lebanon for their dedication to the youth of this State, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

